UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/936
29 November 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 29 NOVEMBER 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States aircraft continued over the period 24 to 27 November 1997 and that the aircraft in question carried out reconnaissance and engaged in acts of provocation, as set forth in the annex hereto.

You are requested to intervene with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and integrity of the Republic of Iraq.

These actions continue to alarm the civilian population and to cause serious damage to private and public property. The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek legal compensation for the damage being inflicted on the Iraqi people and the Iraqi State by these actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex concerning violations of Iraq's airspace circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Violations of Iraq's airspace and damage caused, 24 to 27 November 1997

1. In the northern region 76 sorties were flown, at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Dohuk, Mosul, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Zakho, Irbil, Tall Afar, Baibo, Kalak and Ayn Sifni.

2. In the southern region 292 sorties were flown, at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Nasiriyah, Samawah, Artawi, Ushbayjah, Chalabiyah, Afak, Salman, Busayyah, Qurnah, Chabaish, Shinafiyah, Basra, Taqtaqanah, Lasaf, Diwaniyah, Najaf, Rifa'i and Rumaythah.

3. At 0835 hours on 25 November 1997, a United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at a speed of 600 kilometres per hour and at an altitude of 20,000 metres violated Iraq's airspace in the south of the country. At 1100 hours, the aircraft left in the direction of Kuwait.

4. At 1047 hours and 1053 hours on 21 November 1997, United States aircraft violated Iraq's airspace over the area of Umm Qasr.

5. At 1930 hours and 1945 hours on 22 November 1997, United States aircraft violated Iraq's airspace over the area of Umm Qasr.

6. At 0935 hours on 26 November 1997, a United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at a speed of 600 kilometres and at an altitude of 20,000 metres violated Iraq's airspace in the south of the country. At 1125 hours, the aircraft left in the direction of Kuwait.

7. At 0828 hours on 27 November 1997, a formation comprising two United States aircraft broke the sound barrier over west Basra.